

music and blindfolding. The majority of the case iterations conclude with the statement that reports issued by the Forensic Medicine Institute state that torture and/or ill-treatment had not occurred.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 59)

The report refers to three power plants in Mugla region operated by the Ministry of Energy and TEAS (Turkish Electricity Authority). The report suggests that the installations may be responsible for polluting the whole region with toxic emissions and acid rain and notes practices including the discharge each year of some 700 tons of uranium into open piles of ashes. The report notes information indicating that: in 1993 lawsuits were brought before the Regional (Aydin) Administrative Court in order to stop the environmentally hazardous activities of the three power plants; the Aydin Administrative Court decided to stop them; and, the Turkish Council of Ministers decided to allow the plants to continue to operate despite the decision of the court.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

States of emergency, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/ Sub.2/1997/19/Add.1, Section I)

The report notes a state of emergency is currently in force in 10 provinces in south-east Anatolia.

Other Reports

Terrorism, Note by the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/ 1997/39, Section I)

The note by the Secretary-General reproduces information provided by the government in which reference is made to: the resolutions on human rights and terrorism adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights; the weight and responsibility of terrorists in human suffering throughout the world; inclusion by the International Law Commission, in the draft Statute for the International Criminal Court, of terrorism among "crimes against humanity" when manifested as systematic and widespread killings; the statement in article 30 of the Universal Declaration that non-state actors such as groups and persons may indeed violate human rights; in response to the resolution adopted by the Commission, human rights mechanisms operating under the UN have no alternative but to acknowledge the fact that terrorist groups indeed violate human rights; the statement in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) recognizing the right of peoples to take "legitimate action" to realize their right to self-determination and the view of the government that terrorism is not a "legitimate" kind of action; and, a second statement in the VDPA declaring that the right to self-determination cannot be invoked to dismember or impair the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent states in which the government represents the whole people without any distinction.

**SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF
MINORITIES**

At its 1997 session the Sub-Commission considered a resolution on the situation in Turkey (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.2). The resolution, *inter alia*: noted the international human rights instruments to which Turkey is a party; welcomed amendments to the Constitution and the Anti-Terror Law of

1991; welcomed adoption of new provisions to reduce periods of pre-trial detention, ensure the right of the detainee to legal assistance during pre-trial questioning, limit the competence of the State Security Courts and establish the Human Rights Coordinating Committee; welcomed the invitation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to visit Turkey by the end of 1997 and to the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture to visit the country by the end of 1998; expressed concern at continuing reports of systematic torture and ill-treatment, extrajudicial executions, forced evictions, the destruction of villages, and arbitrary arrests and imprisonment of individuals exercising their right to freedom of expression; expressed concern that measures in the legal and regulatory framework to combat torture have been ignored in practice and persons responsible apparently enjoy impunity; condemned human rights abuses and violations of humanitarian law by the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK); stated that such abuses by armed opposition groups and terrorist acts should not provide the occasion or excuse for violations of non-derogable human rights and international humanitarian law; called on the government to ensure thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations and bring the perpetrators to justice, ensure that human rights and health organizations are free and able to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment, or improper interference, provide access for and cooperate with a recognized humanitarian body in protecting the rights of detainees throughout the country and contributing to the protection of the civilian population in the south-east of the country, invite the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Working Group on arbitrary detention to visit the country and permit independent investigation of reports that the PKK has committed violations of humanitarian law and abuses of human rights; recommended that the CHR consider the situation of human rights in Turkey at its next session; and, decided that if the CHR is unable to take action on the situation in Turkey, to continue consideration of the matter at its 1998 session.

The vote was conducted by secret ballot and the resolution was rejected with 14 votes opposed, 8 in favour and 3 abstentions.

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UNITED KINGDOM

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: The reports prepared by the government for the treaty bodies (HRI/CORE/1/Add.5/Rev.1; Overseas Dependent Territories: HRI/CORE/1/Add.62) contain demographic and statistical information, and information on the political and judicial systems.

In terms of human rights and in the absence of a written constitution or Bill of Rights, the assumption is that rights and freedoms are an inherent part of being a member of society. Parliament's role, therefore, is not to confer rights but rather to consider whether they need to be restricted balancing the needs of society against those of the individual. Remedies, compensation and rehabilitation include access to legal aid, compensation for wrongful conviction or detention,